

March 3, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Att: Docketing Dept.  
P.O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: Docket # 2009-489-E


Not only should the requested rate increase by SCE&G be turned down, it should not even be considered! Mr. Timmerman and Company seem to be living in a different world oblivious to what is going on around them. With everyone having to tighten their belts and make sacrifices to survive (and that's putting it mildly), I'm sure the executives of this utility can cut back on their bonuses, salaries, recreational activities, and find ways to cut waste and reduce expenditures until this country is back on its feet. And please enlighten Mr. Timmerman concerning the loan repayment on SCE&G's fancy new building. I believe he made the statement that none of the rate increase money would go to paying for the new building because it was being paid for with a loan made by SCE&G. Where does he think the money is coming from to repay the loan?!! Please remind him that SCE&G derives its income from its customers. Therefore, any income it derives from customers whether it is a rate increase or not is being used to repay the loan and all other expenditures of the company. If he has found some way to pay the company's liabilities without using its assets, please have him share this as this could solve all our economic problems!

Finally, I remind you of the following facts:

1. SCE&G was approved for a 2.5 percent rate increase annually for the next decade, following a 4.4 percent rate hike in 2008.
2. New rate hike will boost residential power bills for the average SCE&G customer by about \$140 a year by July 2011.
3. For Duke Power customers, the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours is about \$93, following its recent rate increase. For SCE&G, the same level of power costs \$118. The rate increase, if granted, would put it at \$130.
4. SCE&G has higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper.

Please remind yourselves of the current economic conditions – unprecedented unemployment, people like you and me losing their homes, salaries being cut, lay offs, forced days off, no cost of living adjustments for the elderly in the face of rising costs everywhere, savings reduced or used up, and on and on. This is now being called a depression worse than the great depression of the 1930's. It is time for SCE&G to get real!

Respectfully,



William D. Kurts, 521 Cold Branch Dr., Columbia, SC 29223